

**Abstract**

A wireless terminal or other type of terminal in a communication system is controlled in a bandwidth-efficient manner using commands associated with a terminal protocol supported by a switch of the system. In an illustrative embodiment, a set of command symbols are generated by:

5 (i) resizing a command space associated with a wired terminal protocol to obtain a reduced command space suitable for use with a wireless terminal; (ii) generating a representation in which a first portion of the reduced command space is correlated with a second portion of the reduced command space; and (iii) assigning command symbols to valid entries in the representation, such that a given one of the command symbols uniquely identifies a particular combination of commands in the reduced command space. The switch transmits a given command symbol to the wireless terminal, and the wireless terminal decodes the symbol and executes the corresponding commands specified by the symbol. Since the command symbols can be represented using significantly fewer bits than would otherwise be required using the complete wired terminal protocol, the invention allows the switch to control the wireless terminal in a bandwidth-efficient manner, while still providing substantially the full functionality of the wired terminal protocol at the wireless terminal.

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